

# Report of UISAC Team Response COVID-19 Pandemic 2020.

Namaste!

**UISAC** is a non-profit organization initiated by the Board of **Carolinas Asian-American Chamber of Commerce** and partners to educate and assist citizens to overcome social, emotional and wellness crisis in Asian communities throughout the Carolinas. With the support of donors, partners and volunteers, UISAC strives to provide best practice, wisdom and skills to its members for successful living in a safe & strong USA. For more information, please visit <http://www.uisac.org>.

In recent months, strong partnership was forged as a task team to address a host of challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic to our community. Notable partners include **Hindu Center of Charlotte, Shanti Niketan Senior center, Mecklenburg Ministries** (member Mosques, churches, Synagogues, temples and other non-profits), **Charlotte Gujarati/Marathi Samaj, Support New India, Harisangh Kirtan** (Bhutanese refugee South Asian groups), **SEWA international, HSS, UNCC student groups and Ayyapan Swami group, F4F and African ethnic groups** in Charlotte and public service agencies of **NC State, City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg-County staff**.

Major activities and accomplishments offering **35965 volunteer hours** by this task team are highlighted below.

Provided critical support in twenty-six restricted funerals of the deceased during the COVID-19 crisis, from arranging safe final services with special rituals to families, including shipping body overseas in with help of **J.B. Tallent Funeral Service & Crematory** Charlotte NC.

Supported by **Hindu Center administration** of Hemant Amin, Pure Vegetarian kitchen and its dedicated staff, Sewa International and HSS volunteers, Ayapan Swami Group, UISAC served over **29,000 meals** from first week of March continuously to lonely seniors, refugee students and families, college students, Families BPL and single mothers, **Men's shelter, Women Shelter and 200 plus homeless in tents** between Graham and College street, as well as many small pockets of Charlotte areas.

Support new India non-profit leader Gautam Patel and **Charlotte Gujarati Samaj** Leader Reena Ruwala and Sharad Patel for offering food and shelter; Assisted in Flights arrangement and visa issues through **Indian Embassy** at DC and, thanks to **NC Dist 12 Congresswoman** Dr. Alma Adams office dedicated staff, for lawful rescue and communication with victims of COVID restriction-zone for Mobility to safe home return.

**UISAC Program Director** Linh Quach inspired business owners and ethnic skilled alternation workers to start instant manufacturing of over **10,000 masks** offered distribution and sale to support employment of families that lost jobs. Partnering with **Vietnamese Association's** Ms. Thu Huong Nguyen, they distributed free Masks to front-line workers like police, medics and public service staff. She helped over **223 jobless individuals** who lack English written skill to process application get access to qualify for unemployment by educating them about their rights and duties.

With hospital and clinic access shut down, UISAC approached **Palmetto Medical Group** team of Dr. Amit Shah, Dr. Hiren Italia and Dr. Shefali and Dr. Nimish Patel, the **pharmacist volunteers** like Vimal Patel, Rajni Gandhi, Dr. Urvashi and Haresh Mehta and Jain Temple volunteer Ravin Shah for delivery of prescription drugs with door to door service to keep our seniors safe. **Personal Protection Equipment kits** were distributed to homeless, seniors, refugees and students along with instructions on personal hygiene per CDC guidelines.

UISAC connected with **local ethnic art and craft teaching team** of Rituji, Amritaji, Ambikaji, Sheelaji, Britney, Scott, Shridhar and with special grants from **United Way and Mecklenburg County** provide bonding opportunity to shared cultural roots while filling the generation gaps in families with to **342 seniors** as solution to mental health, reduce risk of domestic violence and primary care.

The team of volunteers from **Shanti Niketan Senior Center** like Shatish Raval, Thakor Topiwala and **UNCC Students** Vedant Raval, **CMS Asian teachers**, **Our Bridge Inc** after school program, used virtual assessment tools like Zoom engaging Students with challenges.

**Director of refugee resettlement UISAC** Kamal Dhimal and team worked hard with Atrium to offer mobile unit at HINDU CENTER parking and offered drive thru COVID-test to record high 350 plus individuals in one single day, **Shanti Niketan** team Hasu Patel, Satish Raval, Carolina Business **Alliance CBA leader** Mr. Uday and Paresh Patel were also key support with **UISAC as host** organization.

COVID-reopening task lead by team of **Asian Women leaders**, Linh Quach, Anita Rajan, Phin Xaypangna, Lop mudra Das, Ann Gonzales, directly serving in exchange with other minorities Expert leaders like **Ms. DeAlva Wilson**, are establishing task force to allow easy access to women empowerment in holistic wellness and financial stability during such pandemic situation where the true bonding and family support is maintained with bridging of generation gaps and mental health awareness offering basic training of **Integrated Model** Personal Care Assistance PCA and individual capacity building ICB.

Mr. Paresh Patel owner of **MCI Inc**, under UISAC is designing a community support employment training program to overcome disparity in entrepreneurship in youth from UNCC and other College students offering experience and OPT.

The UISAC team is committed to continue working towards challenges ahead with schools and business reopening, Senior care and service, as our goal stays the same and focused on humanity and unity for a safe community!

## **Acknowledgements**

**Political leadership team from Carolinas**, Former Mayor and commissioner Jennifer Roberts. City council members like Matt Newton, Dimple Ajmera, Mecklenburg-County commissioner Mark Jerrell and Susan Rodriguez, NC State Representative John Autry and Nasif Majeed, helped to created bridge of providers from public agencies and private volunteers' team to make sure every challenge were attended at its best using resources available following lawful process.

**Carolinas Business alliance CBA** lead by Uday Verde, Patrick Chang, Linh Quach, Kamal Dhimal, Paresh Patel, Clarence Ganapathi, Shashi Reddy and myself with support of Dr. Chen at Carolinas Asian- American Chamber of Commerce, gracefully engaged all the above political leaders, via Zoom to serve **small business members over 300 plus** individuals joined and formed exchange task force, provided assistance to PPP loan and other logistical Sustainable Support in access to proper funding inviting local Banks. MCI Inc.

***Vasudhev Kutumb Kum --Vedas Universe is one family! Namaste!***